History

History is the record of past events, including the stories of societies and individual people whose acts, whether noble, common, or foolish, altered the way people lived. Historians study and analyze history in order to appreciate and understand the past, to bring perspective to the present, and to plan for the future.

The History curriculum includes historical foundation courses in World and American history, and addresses national and international topics and issues through specialized courses from the ancient and medieval world to the present. Course offerings include a variety of courses in social, intellectual, and political history.

History majors are encouraged to study a second language and to travel and study either domestically or abroad. A bachelor’s degree in history is excellent preparation for graduate study or further professional study (law, medicine, business, or seminary).

Note: The State of Minnesota does not grant a separate license for teaching history at the secondary level. Students wishing to teach history in secondary schools should complete the Social Studies major, B.S., teacher licensure and may choose a minor or a second major in History.

Programs

• History, B.A. major
• History, B.S. major
• Social Studies, B.A. (History Emphasis) major
• History Minor, B.A. or B.S. minor

Career Directions

Archivist
Government Service
Historian
Historical Society Consultant/Director
Intelligence Data Analyst
International Service Officer
Journalist/Editor
Law, Medicine, and Other Professions
Legislative Researcher
Library Science
Museum Curator
Teacher
Also: Graduate Study

Preparation

Recommended High School Courses

Economics
English/Literature
Geography
Government
History
Psychology

History, B.A. major

Required Credits: 40
Required GPA: 2.25

I REQUIRED COURSES

COMPLETE THREE OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

• HST 1114 United States History I, to 1877 (3 credits)
• HST 1115 United States History II, since 1877 (3 credits)
• HST 1304 World History I, Prehistory-1500 (3 credits)
• HST 1305 World History II, 1500-Present (3 credits)

COMPLETE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

• HST 2800 Reacting to the Past (3 credits)
• HOPR 1104 The Unity and Diversity of Knowledge (2 credits)

COMPLETE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

• HST 4600 History Portfolio (1 credit)
• HST 4783 Senior Thesis in History (3 credits)

II REQUIRED ELECTIVES

A. AMERICAN/UNITED STATES

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

• HST 2667 Men and Women: Gender in America (3 credits)

B. EUROPEAN

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

• HST 2218 Medieval Europe (3 credits)
• HST 2228 Renaissance and Reformation Europe (3 credits)
• HST 3208 Greece And Rome, 1500 BCE-500 CE (3 credits)
• HST 3258 The Roman Civil Law Tradition (3 credits)
• HST 3268 The Roman Revolution, 200 BCE-CE 14 (3 credits)

C. NON-WESTERN

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

• HST 2700 The History of World Religions (3 credits)
• HST 3409 Colonialism and Modernization in the Non-Western World (3 credits)
• HST 3419 East Asia (3 credits)
• HST 3429 South and Southeast Asia (3 credits)
• HST 3449 Middle East (3 credits)
• HST 3459 Latin America (3 credits)

III OTHER REQUIRED ELECTIVES

SELECT 16-19 SEMESTER CREDITS OF HISTORY COURSES NUMBERED AT THE 2000 LEVEL OR ABOVE.
RELEVANT COURSES IN ALLIED DISCIPLINES LISTED BELOW MAY BE INCLUDED WITH THE CONSENT OF THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR (UP TO 6 CREDITS)

- ENGL 2340 The American Film (3 credits)
- ENGL 2350 American Literature, to 1865 (3 credits)
- ENGL 2355 American Literature, 1865 to Present (3 credits)
- ENGL 2357 British and World Drama (3 credits)
- ENGL 2358 British and World Poetry (3 credits)
- ENGL 2359 British and World Prose (3 credits)
- HUM 3107 Topics in Cultural Studies (1-4 credits)
- INST 2201 Creation to Contact (3 credits)
- INST 2202 Survival since Contact (3 credits)
- INST 3307 Ojibwe History (3 credits)
- PHIL 3310 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3320 Modern Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3330 Nineteenth Century Philosophy (3 credits)
- PHIL 3340 Twentieth-Century Philosophy (3 credits)
- POL 4200 Constitutional Law (3 credits)
- PSY 4487 History and Systems of Psychology (3 credits)
- SPAN 4418 Medieval and Golden Age Literature (3 credits)
- SPAN 4426 Latin American Culture and Civilization (3 credits)
- SPAN 4427 Spanish Culture and Civilization (3 credits)

SUGGESTED SEMESTER SCHEDULE FOR HISTORY MAJOR, B.A. OR B.S.

The following is a list of required history courses arranged by year. This schedule is intended to help you take your courses in an orderly fashion and complete your major in four years. These are only suggestions. The program is flexible, and you have some choice as to when to take certain courses.

Freshman
- HST 1305 World History II, 1500-Present (3 credits)
- HST 2800 Reacting to the Past (3 credits)
- Liberal Education requirements
- Courses of interest

Sophomore
- HST 1304 World History I, Prehistory-1500 (3 credits)
- HST 1115 United States History II, since 1877 (3 credits)
- Liberal Education requirements
- Courses of interest

Junior
- Complete II. Required Electives: A,B,C
- Liberal Education requirements
- [Professional-Education courses for B.S. (Teacher Licensure) students]

Senior
- HST 4600 History Portfolio (1 credit)
  or HST 4783 Senior Thesis in History (3 credits)
- History electives numbered above 2200
- Complete Liberal Education requirements
- [Complete Professional-Education courses for B.S. (Teacher Licensure) students]

History, B.S. major

Required Credits: 40
Required GPA: 2.25

I REQUIRED COURSES

COMPLETE THREE OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- HST 1114 United States History I, to 1877 (3 credits)
- HST 1115 United States History II, since 1877 (3 credits)
- HST 1304 World History I, Prehistory-1500 (3 credits)
- HST 1305 World History II, 1500-Present (3 credits)

COMPLETE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- HST 2800 Reacting to the Past (3 credits)
- HOPR 1104 The Unity and Diversity of Knowledge (2 credits)

COMPLETE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- HST 4600 History Portfolio (1 credit)
- HST 4783 Senior Thesis in History (3 credits)

II REQUIRED ELECTIVES

A. AMERICAN/UNITED STATES

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- HST 2667 Men and Women: Gender in America (3 credits)
- HST 3117 American Revolutionary Era, 1763-1800 (3 credits)
- HST 3128 Testing Democracy: Reform in Nineteenth-Century America (3 credits)
- HST 3137 Civil War and Reconstruction, 1844-1877 (3 credits)
- HST 3159 The World at War, 1931-1945 (3 credits)
- HST 3187 American West (3 credits)

B. EUROPEAN

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- HST 2218 Medieval Europe (3 credits)
- HST 2228 Renaissance and Reformation Europe (3 credits)
- HST 3208 Greece And Rome, 1500 BCE-500 CE (3 credits)
- HST 3258 The Roman Civil Law Tradition (3 credits)
- HST 3268 The Roman Revolution, 200 BCE-CE 14 (3 credits)

C. NON-WESTERN

SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- HST 2700 The History of World Religions (3 credits)
- HST 3409 Colonialism and Modernization in the Non-Western World (3 credits)
- HST 3419 East Asia (3 credits)
- HST 3429 South and Southeast Asia (3 credits)
- HST 3449 Middle East (3 credits)
- HST 3459 Latin America (3 credits)

III OTHER REQUIRED ELECTIVES

SELECT 16-19 SEMESTER CREDITS OF HISTORY COURSES NUMBERED AT THE 2000 LEVEL OR ABOVE.

RELEVANT COURSES IN ALLIED DISCIPLINES LISTED BELOW MAY BE INCLUDED WITH THE CONSENT OF THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR (UP TO 6 CREDITS)
SUGGESTED SEMESTER SCHEDULE FOR HISTORY MAJOR, B.A. OR B.S.

The following is a list of required history courses arranged by year. This schedule is intended to help you take your courses in an orderly fashion and complete your major in four years. These are only suggestions. The program is flexible, and you have some choice as to when to take certain courses.

Freshman
- HST 1305 World History II, 1500-Present (3 credits)
- HST 2800 Reacting to the Past (3 credits)
- Liberal Education requirements
- Courses of interest

Sophomore
- HST 1304 World History I, Prehistory-1500 (3 credits)
- HST 1115 United States History II, since 1877 (3 credits)
- Liberal Education requirements
- Courses of interest

Junior
- Complete II. Required Electives: A,B,C
- Liberal Education requirements
- [Professional-Education courses for B.S. (Teacher Licensure) students]

Senior
- HST 4600 History Portfolio (1 credit)
  or HST 4783 Senior Thesis in History (3 credits)
- History electives numbered above 2200
- Complete Liberal Education requirements
- [Complete Professional-Education courses for B.S. (Teacher Licensure) students]

Social Studies, B.A. major

History Emphasis

Note: A minimum of 22 semester credits used to meet course requirements in I and II must be completed at Bemidji State University. No course grade below a C may be used to meet these requirements and a minimum GPA of 2.50 in this major is required for graduation. Students who desire a second field of emphasis are to consider completion a minor or a second major in that field. Such action may complement and increase the marketability of this major.

Required Credits: 48
Required GPA: 2.50

I REQUIRED CORE CURRICULUM

CAPSTONE COURSE
COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COURSE:
- POL 4500 Thesis and Career Preparation (3 credits)

ECONOMICS COURSES
SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:
- ECON 2000 Markets and Resource Allocation (3 credits)
- ECON 2100 Macroeconomics and the Business Cycle (3 credits)

GEOGRAPHY COURSES
SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:
- GEOG 2100 Introduction to Physical Geography (3 credits)
- GEOG 2200 Introduction to Human Geography (3 credits)

UPPER DIVISION WORLD HISTORY
SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:
- HST 2218 Medieval Europe (3 credits)
- HST 2228 Renaissance and Reformation Europe (3 credits)
- HST 2580 Russia (3 credits)
- HST 2600 Topics in History (3 credits)
- HST 2660 Women and History (3 credits)
- HST 2700 The History of World Religions (3 credits)
- HST 2800 Reacting to the Past (3 credits)
- HST 3159 The World at War, 1931-1945 (3 credits)
- HST 3208 Greece And Rome, 1500 BCE-500 CE (3 credits)
- HST 3258 The Roman Civil Law Tradition (3 credits)
- HST 3268 The Roman Revolution, 200 BCE-CE 14 (3 credits)
- HST 3277 Readings and Research in European History (3 credits)
- HST 3409 Colonialism and Modernization in the Non-Western World (3 credits)
- HST 3419 East Asia (3 credits)
- HST 3429 South and Southeast Asia (3 credits)
- HST 3449 Middle East (3 credits)
- HST 3459 Latin America (3 credits)

UPPER DIVISION U.S. HISTORY
SELECT 1 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES
- HST 2600 Topics in History (3 credits)
- HST 2610 Minnesota History (3 credits)
- HST 2640 United States Diplomatic History (3 credits)
- HST 2667 Men and Women: Gender in America (3 credits)
- HST 2800 Reacting to the Past (3 credits)
- HST 3117 American Revolutionary Era, 1763-1800 (3 credits)
History Minor, B.A. or B.S. minor

Required Credits: 24.0
Required GPA: 2.00

I REQUIRED COURSES

COMPLETE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- HST 2800 Reacting to the Past (3 credits)
- HOPR 1104 The Unity and Diversity of Knowledge (2 credits)

COMPLETE THREE OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- HST 1114 United States History I, to 1877 (3 credits)
- HST 1115 United States History II, since 1877 (3 credits)
- HST 1304 World History I, Prehistory-1500 (3 credits)
- HST 1305 World History II, 1500-Present (3 credits)

II REQUIRED ELECTIVES

Select 9 semester credits of History courses at the 2000 level or above.

Relevant courses in allied disciplines may be included with consent of department chair.

The electives must include at least 1 course in United States history and 1 course in an area other than United States history.

History Courses

HST 1114 United States History I, to 1877 (3 credits)
A survey of American/United States history from the earliest period to 1877, including cultures in pre-contact America; the interaction of American, African, and European peoples during exploration and colonization; development of new blended cultures; growth of unfree labor; role of war in early America; founding of a new nation; early attempts to construct a national identity; and growth of cultural tensions leading to the Civil War and Reconstruction. Includes discussions of the increasingly diverse make up of the American population (male and female) and emphasizes the development of analytical skills focusing on reading, oral presentation, and writing. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 7.

HST 1115 United States History II, since 1877 (3 credits)
A survey of United States history since Reconstruction, including social, economic, and cultural changes of the Gilded Age; Populism and Progressivism; internationalism and imperialism; 1920s Normalcy; 1929 Crash and 1930s Depression; New Deal; Cold War; conservative renaissance, Fair Deal; New Frontier and Great Society; and contemporary society and conditions. Includes discussions of the increasingly diverse make up of the American population (male and female) and emphasizes the development of analytical skills focusing on reading, oral presentation, and writing. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 7.

HST 1304 World History I, Prehistory-1500 (3 credits)
A global and cross-cultural study of the early period of world history, including ancient civilizations and empires, classical China, India, Greece, and Rome, interaction of civilizations, influence of Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam as world religions, the Arab world and culture, Medieval Europe, African and American pre-contact cultures and civilizations. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 8.

HST 1305 World History II, 1500-Present (3 credits)
A global and cross-cultural study of the modern period of world history, including the major cultural/continental areas which existed in 1500, the influence of European expansionism and colonialism, interaction of nations and peoples, reform and change in religious patterns, the French Revolution and Napoleon, the development and spread of the Industrial Revolution, Marxism and Communism, global rearrangements of the twentieth century, decline of European colonialism, and contemporary conditions. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 8.

HST 2218 Medieval Europe (3 credits)
Survey of political and intellectual history in Europe from the collapse of Roman power in Western Europe to the fifteenth century. Topics include the rise and growth of the Christian Church and the Papal Monarchy; the Byzantine Empire; the Frankish Kingdom; the Investiture Contest; the Crusades; the twelfth-century Renaissance; the emergence of secular, regional monarchies; representative institutions; and the panoramic crises.

HST 2228 Renaissance and Reformation Europe (3 credits)
Survey of European history from ca. 1400 to 1648 with emphasis on the rise of humanist culture; the growth of stronger "national" governments in England, France, Spain, and Italy; the disintegration of Christian unity and the emergence of rival Christian churches; the emergence of the mercantile, pre-capitalist economic system, and the intensification of conflict made possible by greater resources and religious rivalries. ( Might not be offered every year.)
HST 2580 Russia (3 credits)
Survey of the development of the Russian peoples and nation, from the principality of Kiev through the rise and dominance of Muscovy, to the revolution of 1917 and the establishment of the Soviet Union, the collapse of the Soviet Communist federation, to the present, with stress upon political, dynastic, economic, social, and cultural patterns. Liberal Education Goal Area 8.

HST 2600 Topics in History (3 credits)
Study of a specific historical topic or development, person, or time period, with the specific title being announced in each semester’s class schedule.

HST 2610 Minnesota History (3 credits)
An introductory survey of the Minnesota area over time--its environments, its people, and its cultures. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 7.

HST 2640 United States Diplomatic History (3 credits)
Consideration of the development of United States diplomacy and foreign policy, from the early new nation to the present, including initial national recognition, involvement in the Napoleonic Wars, Manifest Destiny and the Monroe Doctrine, isolationism, involvement in international wars, imperialism, relations with the developing world, the Cold War, and contemporary patterns. (Might not be offered every year.)

HST 2660 Women and History (3 credits)
Introductory survey of the role of women in history, approached thematically and topically. Based on the feminist critique of history, a cross-cultural approach emphasizes a comparative critique and evaluation of women in various historical contexts. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 8.

HST 2667 Men and Women: Gender in America (3 credits)
This course seeks a close-up view of American culture from the colonial era to the modern era through the stories of individuals. In order to better understand these stories, the class first develops an interpretive framework using gender as the central theme. All individuals are shaped by the conventions of gender in any given time period. Those expectations change over time, and students will explore those changes and how individuals respond to them. Individuals are looked at in a variety of historical settings, including urban areas, the frontier, and a variety of middle landscapes. (Might not be offered every year.)

HST 2700 The History of World Religions (3 credits)
A historical survey of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shinto, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, from their origins to the present. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 8.

HST 2800 Reacting to the Past (3 credits)
Consists of elaborate games, set in the past, in which students are assigned "roles" with "victory objectives" informed by classic texts in the history of ideas. Class sessions are run entirely by students; instructors advise and guide students and grade their oral and written work. Liberal Education Goal Areas 9 and 11.

HST 2810 Introduction to Public History (3 credits)
Introduction to several aspects of public history, including archival management, site surveys, oral history, document editing, inventory, and web sites. Includes practical hands-on experiences at area public history sites. (Might not be offered every year.)

HST 2925 People and the Environment: Environment and History (3 credits)
An examination of past interactions between human society and the natural world in what is now the United States. Issues to be discussed in the course include Native American resource management; the ecological effects of the arrival of Europeans, Africans, and Asians in North America; resource exploitation in the industrial era; the preservationist and conservationist movements; and the historical roots of current environmental problems. Liberal Education Goal Area 10.

HST 2953 Study-Travel, History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences (1-6 credits)
Study Travel course in History for Lib Ed Goal Area 5.

HST 3117 American Revolutionary Era, 1763-1800 (3 credits)
Consideration of the redefinition of the British Empire following the Great War for Empire in 1763, the rise and development of colonial rebel opposition, evolution of political philosophy and ideology culminating in the 1776 Declaration of Independence, the war for independence, the new nation under the Articles of Confederation, the writing and ratification of the new 1787 Constitution, and the contribution of the Federalists during the 1790s. (Might not be offered every year.)

HST 3128 Testing Democracy: Reform in Nineteenth-Century America (3 credits)
Nineteenth-century Americans repeatedly examined and interpreted the ideals of the Revolution. Periodically, as grass roots movements tried to expand the benefits that founding fathers originally guaranteed for elite white males, powerful reform movements arose that challenged established authorities, compelling them to either accommodate popular demands or coerce a restoration of the status quo. This course investigates the resulting clashes that characterized reform efforts throughout the century, including those centered on anti-slavery, women's suffrage, temperance, labor, and a host of other causes. (Might not be offered every year.)

HST 3137 Civil War and Reconstruction, 1861-1877 (3 credits)
Consideration of the development of national sectionalism beginning in the 1840s, the influence of Manifest Destiny and frontier expansionism, the growth of southern nationalism, the focus issues of states’ rights and slavery, southern secession and establishment of the Confederate States of America, military and economic dimensions of the war, and restoration of the Union or reconstruction of the south. (Might not be offered every year.)

HST 3159 The World at War, 1931-1945 (3 credits)
This course covers the history of global war and its consequences. Beginning with the development of fascist and totalitarian states in Europe, nationalism in Asia, and the impact of economic depression, the course follows the war by considering issues on the home front and battlefield, debates over strategy and diplomacy, and decisions leading to the Holocaust and the development of atomic weaponry. (Might not be offered every year.)

HST 3187 American West (3 credits)
The American West is both an idea and a place, and although it is difficult to define, it is central to an understanding of how Americans see themselves and are viewed by people around the world. This course focuses on the trans-Mississippi West, but recognizes these are imposed boundaries and that the region is shaped by decisions and policies imposed by Easterners. This study moves across time, examining the lives and cultures of the earliest peoples, the effects of immigrants who competed for land and resources, and the legacy of this westward experience for modern society. The West, too, is real and imagined, and the course will consider its impact on American popular culture.

HST 3208 Greece And Rome, 1500 BCE-500 CE (3 credits)
Survey of Ancient Greek and Roman civilization to the Fifth Century CE. Emphasizes political, intellectual, and cultural issues. (Might not be offered every year.)

HST 3258 The Roman Civil Law Tradition (3 credits)
Study of the Roman Civil Law Tradition as it developed from Antiquity through the Middle Ages, the Early-Modern period and on into the nineteenth century. Prerequisites: Sophomore status and successful completion of at least 6 credits of History (HST) courses, or consent of instructor.

HST 3268 The Roman Revolution, 200 BCE-CE 14 (3 credits)
Explores the failure of the Roman Republic and its transformation into a more autocratic system. This course is conducted on the basis of students' reports on various "classic" problems and historians' interpretations of the problems charting the path from the Gracchan Reforms of 133-122 BCE to the end of the reign of Augustus Caesar in CE 14. Prerequisite: HST 1304 or HST 2208 or consent of instructor. (Might not be offered every year.)
HST 3277 Readings and Research in European History (3 credits)
This is a junior/senior-level topics course on European history. The unifying principle of the course is that students are required to participate in a colloquium format in which they present, analyze, and discuss various readings over the semester and that they produce a research paper of 4000+ words on some specific aspect of the course subject. Prerequisite: HST 1304 or HST 2208 or HST 2218 or HST 2228 or HST 2510 or consent of instructor. (Might not be offered every year.)

HST 3409 Colonialism and Modernization in the Non-Western World (3 credits)
A survey of African, Asian, Latin American, and Middle Eastern civilizations featuring the impacts of modernization introduced through colonialism on the traditional societies of these civilizations. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 8.

HST 3419 East Asia (3 credits)
Political, economic, social, and cultural institutions of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese civilizations, from the ancient period to the present. Special consideration will be given to the spread of Chinese civilization and culture as the basis of East Asian “Confucian” cultures. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 8. (Might not be offered every year.)

HST 3429 South and Southeast Asia (3 credits)
Historical, political, social, economic, and cultural developments from ancient civilizations to contemporary nations, including the influence of European colonial activities, including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Kampuchea, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Philippines. (Might not be offered every year.)

HST 3449 Middle East (3 credits)
Introductory survey of selected themes and problems in the historical, economic, social, and cultural development of the Middle East. Consideration will be given to Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey, Iran, and adjacent areas, including both the Arab and non-Arab dimensions. (Might not be offered every year.)

HST 3459 Latin America (3 credits)
Introductory survey of selected themes and problems in the historical, economic, social, and cultural development of Latin America. (Might not be offered every year.)

HST 4600 History Portfolio (1 credit)
Students will prepare and submit portfolios of their graded assignments from History-courses demonstrating achievement of Learning Outcomes to fulfill requirements for the B.A./B.S. in History. Prerequisite(s): Senior Status and successful completion of at least 26 credits of courses that will count towards the 40 credits required for the B.A./B.S. in History.

HST 4783 Senior Thesis in History (3 credits)
Working with a faculty advisor, students complete research and write a scholarly thesis, then polish and present it in a public venue approved by the department. For students who produce, present, and have such a thesis accepted by the Department, the requirement to present a portfolio of graded assignments for the B.A./B.S. will be waived. Prerequisite(s): Senior Status and successful completion of at least 31 credits of courses counting toward the History B.A./B.S.

All-University Courses

The course numbers listed below, not always included in the semester class schedule, may be registered for by consent of the advisor, instructor, or department chair, or may be assigned by the department when warranted. Individual registration requires previous arrangement by the student and the completion of any required form or planning outline as well as any prerequisites.

1910, 2910, 3910, 4910 DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY
1920, 2920, 3920, 4920 DIRECTED GROUP STUDY
1930, 2930, 3930, 4930 EXPERIMENTAL COURSE
1940, 2940, 3940, 4940 IN-SERVICE COURSE